

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SOE-02 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 DOE-11 H-01 INR-10 INT-05
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-05 USIA-06 OES-07
SP-02 SS-15 STR-07 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 PA-01 SSM-03
/121 W

-----097920 031044Z /21

R 030302Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6229
INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 06852

JERUSALEM FOR USDEL ATHERTON

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ENRG, EG, IS, US
SUBJ: AMOCO EXPLORATION IN GULF OF SUEZ

1. AMOCO EXPLORATION MANAGER MEL HARPER PHONED EMBOFF
MARCH 1 TO PROVIDE INFORMATION ON UPCOMING AMOCO
DRILLING ACTIVITY IN SOUTHERN GULF OF SUEZ CLOSE TO
ISRAELI CONTROLLED ZONE. HARPER SAID HE PASSING ALONG
INFORMATION ON UNDERSTANDING IT WOULD BE PROVIDED TO
ISRAELIS FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY IN INTEREST OF
AVOIDING MISUNDERSTANDING. IN NO WAY IS AMOCO SEEKING
ISRAELI APPROVAL FOR ITS ACTIVITY.

2. HARPER EXPLAINED THAT RIG 511 CURRENTLY DRILLING
AT DISCOVERY SITE IN BLOCK 195, NEAR ABU RUDEIS, WILL MOVE
SOUTH IN APPROXIMATELY ONE WEEK (MARCH 7-8) TO NEW DRILLING
LOCATION. COORDINATES HARPER GAVE FOR NEW SITE ARE 27
DEGREES 59 MINUTES ZERO SECONDS NORTH AND 33 DEGREES 37.6
MINUTES ZERO SECONDS EAST. POINT IS, ACCORDING TO AMOCO,
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11.75 KM FROM WEST BANK OF GULF AND 13.25 KM FROM EAST
BANK. RIG USED IS SAME AS THAT USED AT THE 392-3 SITE IN
FEB, 1977 WITH CIRCULAR ANCHOR PATTERN, EACH ANCHOR BEING
ABOUT 800 M FROM SHIP. WHILE SHIP ITSELF WILL BE WELL
WEST OF ISRAELI ZONE, ONE OR MORE ANCHOR BOATS WILL HAVE
TO APPROACH ZONE WITHIN 1-2 KILOMETERS TO SET ANCHORS.
SITE IS 5 KILOMETERS NORTH OF EXISTING PRODUCTION PLAT-

FORM AT BLOCK 382. AMOCO IDENTIFYING NEW SITE AS GS-373-2.

3. HARPER ASKED THAT USG USE THIS INFORMATION AS NECESSARY TO ASSURE THERE IS NO REPEAT NO MISTAKE IN PERCEIVING AMOCO INTENTIONS BY "THOSE ON EAST SIDE OF GULF." THERE IS NO INTENTION TO CROSS INTO ISRAELI CONTROLLED ZONE, ALTHOUGH WORK BOATS WILL BE MOVING VERY CLOSE TO IT IN ABOUT A WEEK TO BEGIN WORK OF SETTING ANCHORS.

4. RECOMMEND DEPT INSTRUCT EMBASSY TEL AVIV TO MAKE THIS INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO GOI ON BASIS OUR CONTINUING INTEREST IN FORESTALLING ANY POSSIBLE MISUNDERSTANDING ABOUT AMOCO'S INTENTIONS. EILTS

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NNN

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